

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-17 (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for the delivery of a therapeutic agent to a predetermined site within a patient comprising:

a means for the administration of said therapeutic agent to said patient, comprising a reservoir for the therapeutic agent, at least one orifice through which the agent is administered, and a controlled source of energy sufficient to transfer a predetermined amount of the therapeutic agent at a predetermined rate from said reservoir through said orifice to the predetermined site within the patient,

a plurality of penetrating electrodes arranged with a predetermined spatial relationship relative to said orifice;

an electrical signal generator ~~means for generating an electrical signal~~ operatively connected to said electrodes; and

an extendable shield ~~means~~ for shielding either the agent orifice or the electrodes from a user of the apparatus when the orifice or the electrodes are not in contact with the patient.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 18, comprising a wherein ~~said extendable shield means includes at least one~~ source of energy to extend said shield when the orifice or the electrodes are not in contact with the patient.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 18 wherein said extendable shield ~~means~~ extends to shield either the agent orifice or the electrodes after the orifice or the electrodes are removed from contact with the patient.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for the delivery of a therapeutic agent to cells in a predetermined site within tissue of a patient comprising:

a means for the administration of said therapeutic agent to said patient, comprising a reservoir for the therapeutic agent, at least one orifice through which the agent is administered, and a first controlled source of energy sufficient to transfer a predetermined amount of the therapeutic agent from said reservoir through said orifice to the predetermined site within the tissue of the patient;

a plurality of penetrating electrodes arranged with a predetermined spatial relationship relative to said orifice; and

an electrical signal generator ~~means for generating an electrical field~~ which facilitates the delivery of said therapeutic agent within tissue, which ~~means~~ generator is operatively connected to said electrodes,

wherein the first controlled source of energy comprises at least one of a spring, compressed gas, or an electromechanical energy source.

22. – 30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for the delivery of a therapeutic agent to cells in a predetermined site within tissue of a patient comprising:

a means for the administration of said therapeutic agent to said patient comprising a reservoir for the therapeutic agent, at least one orifice through which the agent is administered, and ~~means for transferring~~ a controlled source of energy sufficient to transfer a predetermined amount of the therapeutic agent from said reservoir through said orifice to the predetermined site within the tissue of the patient;

a plurality of penetrating electrodes which are arranged to be deployable to a predetermined depth within the patient; and

an electrical signal generator ~~means for generating an electrical field~~, which facilitates the delivery of said therapeutic agent, which generator ~~means~~ is operatively connected to said electrodes.

32. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for the delivery of a therapeutic agent to cells in a predetermined site within the tissue of a patient comprising:

a means for the administration of said therapeutic agent to said patient, comprising a reservoir for the therapeutic agent, at least one orifice through which the agent is administered, and a first controlled source of energy sufficient to transfer a predetermined amount of the therapeutic agent from said reservoir through said orifice to the predetermined site within the tissue of the patient;

a detachable electrode subassembly comprising a plurality of penetrating electrodes operatively connected to a second controlled source of energy sufficient to deploy the electrodes to a predetermined depth within the patient, which detachable subassembly is detachable relative to the orifice through which the agent is administered; and

an electrical signal generator ~~means for generating an electrical field~~ which facilitates the delivery of said therapeutic agent, which generator ~~means~~ is operatively connected to said electrodes.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 32 wherein the first controlled source of energy to transfer the therapeutic agent is at least one of a spring, compressed gas, and electromechanical energy source.

34. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for the delivery of a therapeutic agent to cells in a predetermined site within tissue of a patient comprising:

a) a means for the administration of said therapeutic agent to said patient comprising:

i) a reservoir for the therapeutic agent,

- ii) at least one orifice through which the agent is administered, and
  - iii) ~~means for transferring~~ a controlled source of energy sufficient to transfer a predetermined amount of the therapeutic agent from said reservoir through said orifice to the predetermined site within the tissue of the patient;
- b) a plurality of penetrating electrodes arranged in a predetermined spatial relationship relative to said orifice;
  - c) an electrical signal generator ~~means for generating an electrical field~~ which facilitates the delivery of said therapeutic agent, which generator ~~means~~ is operatively connected to said electrodes; and
  - d) a control ~~means~~ system configured to provide a pre-determined temporal relationship between the administration of the agent and generation of the electrical field.

35. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising:

- e) a user-activated trigger operatively connected to said control ~~means~~ system wherein activation of said trigger initiates electrode and orifice insertion, agent administration, and electrical field application, all according to a predetermined timing and sequence.

36. (Currently Amended) An apparatus assembly for the delivery of a therapeutic agent to cells in a predetermined site within tissue of a patient comprising:

- a) a subassembly for the administration of said therapeutic agent within the tissue of said patient comprising
  - i) an injection needle with at least one injection orifice
  - ii) a fluid reservoir operatively connected to ~~an~~ said injection needle ~~with at least one injection orifice and~~

~~ii)-iii)~~ means for transferring a controlled source of energy sufficient to transfer a predetermined amount of the therapeutic agent from said reservoir through said orifice to the predetermined site within the tissue of the patient;

b) a detachable electrode subassembly configured with a plurality of penetrating electrodes arranged in a predetermined spatial relationship, which detachable subassembly is detachable relative to the administration subassembly;

c) a main unit comprising structural means incorporating a user interface and operative connections for said detachable electrode subassembly, said fluid reservoir, and said injection needle wherein said main unit structural means is configured to allow disposition of said plurality of electrodes and said injection ~~orifice-needle~~ within the tissue of a patient according to a predetermined spatial relationship;

d) an electrical signal generator means for generating an electrical field which facilitates the delivery of said therapeutic agent, which generator means is operatively connected to said electrodes.

37. (Currently Amended) An apparatus assembly for the delivery of a therapeutic agent to cells in a predetermined site within tissue of a patient comprising:

a) a subassembly for the administration of said therapeutic agent to cells in the tissue of said patient comprising a fluid reservoir operatively connected to an injection needle with at least one injection orifice; and

b) a electrode subassembly for the propagation of electrical fields within the tissue of said patient comprising a plurality of penetrating electrodes arranged in a predetermined spatial relationship; and

c) a main unit comprising structural means incorporating a user interface a user-activated trigger and operative connections for said electrode subassembly, said fluid reservoir, and said injection needle wherein activation of said trigger initiates electrode and orifice insertion ~~said structural means is configured to allow disposition of said plurality of electrodes and said injection~~

~~orifice~~ within the tissue, wherein said injection orifice is positioned within the region of tissue bounded by said plurality of penetrating electrodes; and

d) an electrical signal generator ~~means for generating an electrical field~~ which facilitates the delivery of said therapeutic agent, which generator ~~means~~ is operatively connected to said electrodes.

38. (Currently Amended) An apparatus assembly for the delivery of a therapeutic agent to cells in a predetermined site within tissue of a patient comprising:

a) at least one subassembly for the administration of said therapeutic agent to the tissue of said patient, comprising a fluid reservoir operatively connected to at least one injection needle with at least one injection orifice;

b) a plurality of penetrating electrodes;

c) a main unit comprising structural means incorporating a user interface a user-activated trigger and operative connections for said administration subassembly and said electrodes wherein said main unit structural means ~~is configured with a~~ comprises an automated mechanism configured to facilitate transition of said injection needle and said electrodes from a retracted state within said main unit structural means to a deployed state within the tissue of a patient following activation of said trigger; and

d) an electrical signal generator ~~means for generating an electrical field~~ which facilitates the delivery of said therapeutic agent, which generator ~~means~~ is operatively connected to said electrodes in their deployed state.

39. (Currently Amended) An apparatus assembly for the delivery of a therapeutic agent to cells in a predetermined site within tissue of a patient comprising:

a) at least one subassembly for the administration of said therapeutic agent to cells in the tissue of said patient, each comprising a fluid reservoir operatively connected to at least one electrically conductive injection needle with at least one injection orifice;

- b) at least one penetrating electrode
- c) a main unit comprising structural means incorporating a user interface a user-activated trigger and operative connections for said administration subassembly wherein said main unit structural means is configured with a comprises an automated mechanism configured to allow transition of said injection needle and said penetrating electrode from a retracted state within said main unit structural means to a deployed state in the tissue of a patient following activation of said trigger; and
- d) an electrical signal generator means for generating an electrical field which facilitates the delivery of said therapeutic agent, which generator means is operatively connected to said conductive injection needle and said penetrating electrode in their deployed state.

40. (Cancelled)